

India's national anthem world record bid

11th December, 2012



India and Pakistan are rivals in many things. Perhaps their biggest rivalry is over the game of cricket. Over 300 million Indians and Pakistanis can watch an important game between the two

countries on television. They now have a new source of competition – to break the world record for the most people to sing a national anthem together. India was the world record holder earlier in 2012, when 15,243 people gathered in Maharashtra state to sing India's anthem, 'Jan Gan Man'. Pakistan took the record in October after 44,200 people sang the Pakistani anthem, Qaumi Tarana in Lahore. India tried to reclaim the record on Sunday with up to 125,000 singers at Kanpur's Green Park stadium.

The new world record is still not official. The team from the Guinness World Records needs to study the event before it awards India the title of world record holder. One of the organisers, Sumit Makhija, said so many people came to sing that he was worried about safety. He told the BBC News agency: "We'd set a target of 100,000 people to break Pakistan's world record. However, when over 125,000 people gathered, we were forced to end the programme early...to avoid a stampede." Rajesh Chandra, one of the singers at the event, also spoke to the BBC to explain his pride at being a record breaker. He said: "It was a proud moment for me to participate, beat Pakistan, and set a world record".

Sources: BBC News / NewstrackIndia.com

Writing

World records should only be for things like the fastest runner or the tallest building, not for how many people can sing a national anthem. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rivals / India / Pakistan / cricket / competition / world record / national anthem / singers / official / record holder / event / safety / stampede / pride / participate

True / False

- The biggest rivalry between India and Pakistan is over cricket. T / F
- The two countries now share a rivalry over a national anthem record. T / F
- India has never set the record for the most people to sing an anthem. T / F
- India's current bid to set the record included over 100,000 singers. T / F
- Guinness World Records has not yet told India it has the record. T / F
- The singing ended early because locals complained about the noise. T / F
- There was a stampede as the singers left the stadium. T / F
- One of the singers told the BBC it wasn't important to beat Pakistan. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. rivals | a. get back |
| 2. important | b. goal |
| 3. competition | c. finish |
| 4. gathered | d. opponents |
| 5. reclaim | e. approved |
| 6. official | f. join |
| 7. awards | g. met |
| 8. target | h. gives |
| 9. end | i. rivalry |
| 10. participate | j. major |

Discussion – Student A

- Do you know and like the words to your national anthem?
- Do you like the Guinness World Records?
- Are some world records stupid?
- Should all school children sing their national anthem?
- How do you feel when you hear your national anthem at the Olympics?
- What things make you proud of your country?
- How do countries decide their national anthems?
- If you could change your national anthem, what would you replace it with?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. India and Pakistan are rivals | a. source of competition |
| 2. their biggest rivalry is | b. being a record breaker |
| 3. They now have a new | c. reclaim the record on Sunday |
| 4. the world record | d. a stampede |
| 5. India tried to | e. not official |
| 6. The new world record is still | f. over the game of cricket |
| 7. We'd set a target | g. moment for me |
| 8. end the programme early to avoid | h. of 100,000 people |
| 9. explain his pride at | i. in many things |
| 10. It was a proud | j. holder |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the tune to your national anthem?
- What is the point of a national anthem?
- Are there any national anthems you don't like hearing? Why?
- What do you think of the national anthem rivalry in this story?
- Would you like to join in an event like this?
- Do you think this rivalry will be good for India and Pakistan?
- What rivalries does your country have with its neighbours?
- Which world record would you like to break?

Spelling

- vairrly over the game of cricket
- an itnprmtoa game between the 2 countries
- They now have a new oucesr of competition
- erraile in 2012
- 15,243 people dehtrega in Maharashtra
- India tried to railecm the record
- still not aclfiofi
- ... before it rdwasa India the title
- he was worried about ystaef
- we were edrfoc to end the programme
- davoi a stampede
- a proud moment for me to cpeipatitar

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 2. j | 3. i | 4. g | 5. a |
| 6. e | 7. h | 8. b | 9. c | 10. f |

Role Play

Event organiser - You think it is an important record to break. Tell the others three reasons why. You are sure it helps good relations between India and Pakistan. You don't like people who say bad things about the record. You think people should be more proud of their national anthem.

Indian singer - Singing in this event is the happiest moment of your life. Tell the others three reasons why. You love your country and think your national anthem is the best in the world. You want to sing in another event if another country breaks the record. You are worried the record could start a war with Pakistan.

Guinness official - You don't think the national anthem record is so important. Tell the others three reasons why. You are more interested in real human skills, like the fastest runner or the person who can eat the most hot dogs. You are thinking of deleting this record because it hurts India-Pakistan relations.

United Nations worker - You think the rivalry between India and Pakistan over their national anthems is wonderful. Tell the others three reasons why. You are sure it can only bring the two countries closer together. Any talk of war is totally stupid. You think more countries should try and break the record.

Speaking – National Pride

What do you like best about your country? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| • national anthem | • food |
| • national dress | • history |
| • national day | • customs |
| • language | • weather |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | T | c | F | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.